

THE SCORCHER

THE IMAGE.....

DECEMBER 30p



INSIDE:
RIOTS
STRIKES
PRISONERS
EXCLUSIVE

I AM CONVINCED THAT THE SCORCHER WILL BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPLETE OVERTHROW OF SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT TODAY. I AM SURE THAT THIS REFLECTS ONLY A MINORITY OPINION IN WALES, AND DOES NOT, IN ANY WAY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE AVERAGE LAW ABIDING CITIZEN.

SIR KENNETH NEWMAN.



THE REALITY.....

"THE ONLY WAY THE POLICE CAN PROTECT SOCIETY IS QUITE SIMPLY BY HARASSING THESE PEOPLE AND FRIGHTENING THEM SO THAT THEY ARE AFRAID TO COMMIT CRIMES."

INSPECTOR BASIL GRIFFITHS,
SOUTH WALES POLICE, PONTYPRIDD.



BEWARE COMRADES: THIS PAPER HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY AN ADVENTURIST CLIQUE WHOSE SOLE AIM IS THE UNDERMINING OF SOVIET SOCIETY AND THE CREATION OF A WORLD DEVOTED TO UNLICENSED PLEASURE.

POLITBUREAU COMMUNIQUE.

BEWARE COMRADES: THIS PAPER WILL DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO HASTEN THE RETURN OF ANOTHER LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

ARTHUR SCARGILL.



THE FIRE NEXT TIME....



police flee Toxteth's proletarian youth

Apart from an outbreak of window smashing in Llandudno the nearest Wales got to joining the July '81 riot festivities was over the weekend of the Charles Street carnival in Cardiff. While the valleys, Newport and Swansea stayed quiet, for 4 days the invisible communications network of rumour and gossip alerted the street wise that "it was about to happen here."

On the Friday, after the pubs closed, a group of skinheads attacked cars in Sophia Gardens and overturned a car under Clare st bridge. Down in the docks a crowd of black youths overturned a car but before any one could set fire the leaking petrol the police and fire brigade arrived. This led to house to house raids by the police in search of those responsible. By the following morning everyone - including the police - knew that "today was gonna be the day." Rumours of violence, of where it was going to start swept the city. Everyone had a different story. Crowds of skinheads from the Valleys started arriving at the station for the night's action. Police, who were out patrolling in force, refused to let many of them off at the station. Kids arriving at Grass Roots in Charles St for the evening were told by a beaming Rasta outside "Gig is cancelled, go forth and riot."

By mid-evening several separate groups of skinheads and punks, between 50-100 strong at their peak, were joined by another group of black kids from the docks. The scene was set, but the police were better organised. Following the smashing of a jeweller's window at David Morgans the police drove their vans and unmarked cars to break up any gatherings. No attempt at arrests were made - just fast reckless driving straight at the crowds - of the type that killed David Moore in Liverpool.

The Monday saw the most concerted attempt to attack the police. About 50-60 kids gathered outside the Bosun pub in Angelina Street and along East Canal Wharf, armed with stones

and pick axe handles. An old wrecked car was set alight and petrol bombs hurled at a tyre warehouse. The fire brigade and police vans were stoned as they arrived to make arrests. Adopting the same tactics as on Saturday however, the police successfully dispersed the crowd.

**We're just
Aunt Sallies
say police**



No mention of these events at all was made by any of the Welsh media at the time. There is no doubt that, highly alarmed by the tension in the city on the Saturday, the police determinedly and successfully blocked any press or radio coverage. They effectively set the pattern which police forces elsewhere have followed throughout 1982 - no mention of riots or disturbances at all costs. Riots at Toxteth, Railton Rd, Brixton and All Saints Rd in Notting Hill have been deliberately covered up lest the image of a people basking in a post Falklands euphoric unity be destroyed. Riots in Poland - good news: Riots in Britain - no news.

Police Provoke

Riot

The exception to this was of course the so-called "riot" in Brixton, at the beginning of November which was deliberately provoked and stage managed by the police in order for the newly arrived Sir Kenneth Newman to show off his "no-nonsense" approach and gain an easy victory with his "Instant Response Units". The police even had their film cameras in position hours beforehand in order to film the riot which they were

intent on provoking. If anyone else set up cameras in advance to film a riot they were about to organise they'd be a conspiracy charge right away. It's not thought the D.P.P. will be proffering charges against Sir Kenneth at this stage. The press duly lapped up these new heroes (the I.R.U.'s) to follow on from the SAS. - one was looking to see if P.C. Trevor Locke 'hero of the Iranian Embassy siege' was in there somewhere. So we now have the carefully fed myth, that having defeated Galtieri and the TUC Thatcher's I.R.U.'s have now defeated the rioters. The riotous youth of Britain however, like the Provisional I.R.A. will choose their own time to fight and won't be fooled by the police publicity stunt. It's

not generally thought on the Front Line in Brixton that 5a.m. on a Monday morning is the ideal time to start a riot. But if the press has ignored the reality of the continuing battles, the Left has falsified them. Totally non-comprehending the ferocity and widespread nature of the riots, the Left has now recovered sufficiently to try and fit them into their threadbare Marxist-Leninist analysis. Apparently all the rioters wanted was jobs, decent housing, more social workers

more community policing and better leisure facilities. This approach was pathetically illustrated by the Wales TUC/CP/Labour Party organised People's



THE COURTS HANDED DOWN SENTENCES OF UP TO 8 YEARS FOR PETROL BOMBERS - WHEREAS THE POLICE MURDERERS OF DAVID MOORE WALKED AWAY FREE.

March for jobs which ended with a rally in Cardiff on Sept. 25. Considering the massive youth unemployment in South Wales and the apparent widespread anger about this, the Leftie hacks led by Bros G.Wright, T.Benn and B.Pearce were somewhat perplexed as to why only about 40 of said disaffected youth had turned up for the march. (The other 200 in attendance being made up of leftists selling papers to each other.) Nevertheless not to be put off, they addressed the rally as if Sophia Gardens was packed from one end to the other with youths desperate to pounce on the next card appearing in the job centre window. The Bishop of Llandaff's curate told us

all how we should pray for jobs. Tony Benn wiped a custard pie off thrown by the only truly disaffected youth there. Bert Pearce brought the occasion to a rousing crescendo by declaring that "The youth are not all criminals and rioters. They are crying out, Give us a future."

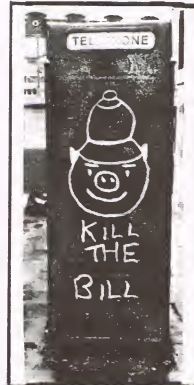
The Lefties are capable of going on with this self-delusion forever. They have to - because they're as scared of the breakdown of work imposed discipline on people as the Capitalists. In many 'Socialist' countries unemployment is punishable by years of hard labour in prison. In Poland the government continually blames the riots on 'minorities of criminal Unemployed'. Without the discipline of work, people do not respond to the Left's leadership - thus their continual whining that last year's riots "weren't properly organised". This is in direct contrast to the experience of the Chief Constable of Manchester who could only marvel at the self-organisation of the rioters. "These people are organised. They are using motorcyclists with C.B. radios to direct their attacks. When the police arrive at a spot the rioters have gone and are attacking police stations and shops elsewhere."

LOOK AT THE GEEZER ON THE RIGHT. IS HE ASKING THE COPPER THE WAY TO THE NEAREST JOB CENTRE?



The complete absence of thousands of youths pleading "Give us a future" left him under-estimated and unaware that his future was as unwanted as any other, offered by Leftie hacks. Talking to the kids who had been on the march for 3 days they said;

1. No they didn't want to work in a shitty job for the rest of their lives.
2. They'd only gone on the march to get away from home/smoke dope and get fucked/have a laugh.
3. They thought the Lefties were idiots and a soft touch.



Shopping without money during the riots

the acquisition of which is supposed to be the ultimate aim of our lives - was totally rejected and ferociously wrecked. The riots were a spiritual insurrection against the boredom and meaninglessness of life under capitalism. Against the hated police who force the boredom and repression, but against the form of the boredom as well. Teeny-boppers dragged weeny-boppers (or was it the other way round?) out to throw rocks at the police. Meanwhile the Lefties held their heads in disbelief - totally unable to mediate, to turn the actions of the rioters into demands they could negotiate. IF ONLY THE RIOTERS HAD MADE DEMANDS THE LEFT WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD. The Ruling Class has tried to use the spectacle of adventure in the Falklands to erase the collective consciousness of the riots. Jimmy Heather-Hayes an 18 year old punk who walked into Teddington police station in March and hurled two petrol bombs over the counter, wrote from his prison cell

A group of armed thugs march through Brixton



shortly before he hung himself, "I hate this country and it's fucking system. I hope Argentina beats Britain and sinks the whole fucking fleet, God rot those shits with their Britain, their Queen, courts, judges and police, God burn those stuck up po-faced shits with their tea and three piece suits and their money." No the consciousness of the riots hasn't been erased. The vote for Provisional Sinn Fein in the Uister Assembly elections was described by the N.I. office as "the 16-22 street riot vote" The kids know their collective power on the streets, next year the lessons of '81 will have been learnt, we'll be better organised, we'll seize buildings and areas and defend them for days, we'll burn down job centres. Summer '83 - the fire next time!



WHAT DO WE WANT ?

"What do we want?...12%..When do we want it?...Now" has become an anthem to wasted energy. For six months the "NOW" has been howled with the same insistent urgency and for six months nothing has happened. The Tories don't give a damn about settling the dispute - there is big money in illness. What better way of advancing the cause of the private health schemes, they are committed to, then a lengthy pay wrangle which will turn those who can afford it, to subscribe to BUPA and the other profit making concerns? In the long term they intend the running down of the Health Service to a form of modern workhouse for the poor, with reduced standards of care and less public investment - pretty much the same as their plans for the country. And with the unions going no further than the crazy masochism of more chanting, more marching and more indignant cries of injustice, before the inevitable sell-out. The Health Service and the Health workers are destined, as they know, to end up on the shiteheap once again.

day of action

The TUC will have done quite well out of the mess. In a period for them, faced with a government that won't play 'pay-bargaining' with them, they managed with the Day of Action to pull off a very successful public relations exercise, tapping in on the widespread sympathy for the nurses for their own ends. The Day of Action was a gutless pretend general strike for 24 hours - fear not we'll be back in our miserable jobs tomorrow, recreating our alienation. It did no more than give a boost to the TUC. It displayed the nurses and it's banal 'illegality' to the fore. How many arrests were there? The TUC know, as do the workers in the Health dispute that when the government want they can settle with the nurses: the only doubt is whether Spanswick and co don't manage to do it first. The nurses are a special case, there is political capital to be made out of them. not so with the rest involved in the dispute. With a sellout in the offing, what options are left open to the ancillary workers?

DOCTORS

Take a lead from the doctors, the first to leap to the attack with cries of negligence and indifference to patient care. Take control of the hospitals! After all this is what they did when Bevan first laid out the plans for the NHS. The BMA - the doctors' union - run by a group of very rich Harley Str-



YES, ALBERT, BUT WHOSE VICTORY?

ers as no more than interfering scum.

1926

Prior to the General Strike of 1926 Trade Union leaders spoke openly and consistently about workers control of industry, the overthrow of capitalism, and the creation of a socialist society. A few months later with the country at a standstill they settled for the most paltry concessions, grubbed around with the Labour party, fearful there would be no parliament to be M.P.'S in, and united with the Tory government, the Army, the police and the yellow press fed by Churchill's lies to sellout the strikers. The 'revolutionary' leaders joined the establishment of capital, became the enemy - they have been ever since.

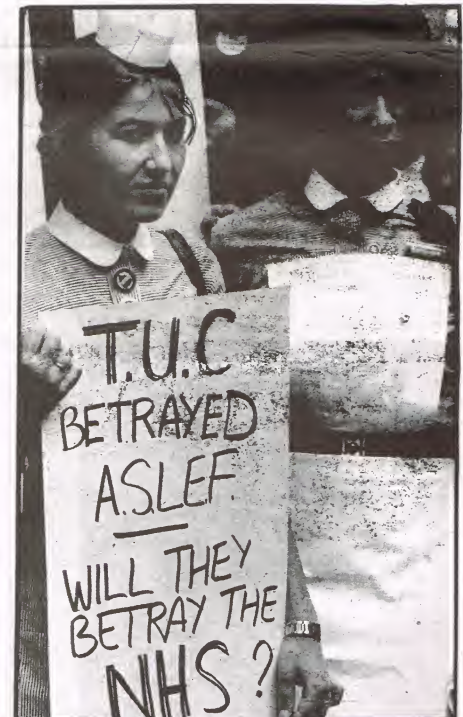
1982

During 1982 they have managed the defeat of the ASLEF drivers and laid the ground for the end of the Health Service dispute, through the empty Day of Action,

et consultants said that unless there was allowance given to them to practice privately they would refuse to give treatment. Private beds for private profit or sod the lot of you. What ever happened to the Hippocratic oath! SO what was presented by the Labour party as the great monument to post-war socialism, the envy of the world, was nothing but a vast extension of care already recognised by the Tories as necessary. This was handed over with no fuss to the ruthless self-interest of the BMA.

SEIZE

Post-war conditions needed the Health Service to produce healthy workers, the tools to rebuild capitalism after six years of war economy. In the 1980's fit workers aren't needed. The project of a real National Health Service is in the hands of the health workers themselves. By taking control of their workplaces they can prevent the return to private medicine. The TUC AREN't bothered about this as they, like the government are all well looked after on private schemes. Seize the private hospitals and prevent their use, seize the administrative positions in the hospitals and exclude private patients. We will not have equal health care for all until those who work in and need the hospitals take control of them away from the vested interest of the BMA and the bureaucrats that serve them who regard the Health work-



THANKS TO LEFTIST MYSTIFICATION MILITANT WORKERS ARE STILL CAPABLE OF ASKING SUCH QUESTIONS.



THE T.U.C. ORGANISES ANOTHER 'DECADE OF ACTION' AS THE NURSES DISPUTE ENTERS ITS 25TH YEAR.

diluting the issues into glib protests masquerading as real solidarity. The left cried 'sellout' as if the Trade Unions are not about selling out. They always will because they are on the otherside. They attack the leadership only because they want the power for themselves to introduce the revolutionary pay claim with the illusion of social change. The only change is a change of leader - a new oppressor to keep you down.

1981

IN 1981 the miners struck spontaneously against pit closures, no ballots, no prior warnings to allow the NCB to stockpile coal 'just in case' - 50,000 acting in solidarity. Scargill, then leader of the Yorkshire miners opposed the action as improper as Gormley forged his reputation assuming the appearance of moderation, so Scargill has forged his with the appearance of 'extremism. Regularly he bends the ear of the media he detests, the headlines announce the new class war - peddling his ambition in the courts of the bourgeoisie. Not because he opposes the bourgeoisie, but because he is part of them, providing the radical solutions to the maintenance of capitalism. But the miners



refused his prospect for the downfall of the Tories and the return of a Labour government because it did not serve their interests. It is this combativity by the class on its own terms that is the way forward.

"his"

ward. No victories to the government, no defeats for the miners, just a rejection by the miners of Scargill's prestige seeking careerism. Notice at the announcement of the ballot result as Scargill spoke entirely of not being depressed at 'his' defeat, his habit of referring to 'his' miners - with friends like this who need enemies.

SCARGILL CONTEMPLATES HIS ROLE AS MINISTER OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE NEXT LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

QUOTE FROM OBSERVER 'BUSINESS NEWS' OCT. 31ST 1982.

In its promotional propaganda, the Welsh Development Corporation makes a special point of telling overseas firms that labour is cheap in the principality and the existence of strong unions ensures a well-disciplined workforce.

JOG FOR JOBS

Following the huge success of the last three years of marches to variously demand the Right to Work? Kick out the Tories? and get stoned, pissed, laid in London for a couple of days. The Labour party, SWP, Big Flame, TUC and the consortium of British and Allied Cobblers have joined forces with the 'Sport for all Council' to organise the People's Jog for Jobs.

A spokesman told 'The Scorchers' this week "After the tremendous success of the People's March for Jobs we thought the logical progression was to have a mass jog. You could say that 'now we have learnt to walk, now we will learn to run. Next year we are thinking of roller skating. Since the great demonstrations began some three years ago, 2½ million more people have joined the demand for work, and more and more people are joining every week. People know that this is the most repressive Tory government since the last one and want this to be taken notice of". The Sports Council have stressed the non-political nature

of this event, emphasising that they are not in the business of changing society, a feeling that the other groups have sincerely concurred with. Dr Roger Bannister said, "Imagine if everybody was jogging instead of thinking about the misery and desolation of their lives. Think of what a trouble free world this would be."

CND

CND are planning a similar event 'Jog against the Bomb' later in the year should the 'Jog for Jobs' be a success. The police have given consent for the event to go ahead and the runners will be joined by the police athletics team who will escort the runners through the urban areas on the route. Monseigneur Bruce Kent CND spokesman enthused, "We feel this could become a major force in the Peace Movement,

yet another example of the inventiveness of the pacifist mentality". The Jog for Jobs will congregate in London, at Hyde Park on April 1st 1983 which means that many of the runners from the Highlands and Islands as well as Northern Ireland will have been out on the road for 3 or 4 months. The organisers have assured the police that there will be no trouble as people will be too knackered to do anything anyway. From the demonstration a special train will carry the demonstrators to Beachy Head where a torchlit mass will be held which will condemn the repressive inhumane forces that are being nasty to everyone a lot of the time. This will be followed by everybody leaping over the edge to show their commitment to the cause.



The Rt.Hon. Christopher Chataway, former Tory cabinet minister, colleague of Dr. Roger Bannister and British Olympic athlete writes; "I strongly support the splendid initiative of The Sport for all Council and others in organising the Jog for Jobs Campaign. At last the energies of the Nation's youth can be put to good use rather than dissipated in rioting, looting and attacking our wonderful police force. I, myself, and Dr. Roger Bannister will join the Jog for the last 100yds. I urge you most strongly to support us.

PEOPLES' JOG FOR JOBS application.

I/WE enclose £.....to takepart in thePEOPLES' JOG FOR JOBS.

Send all money to 108 Bookshop, Salisbury Rd, CARDIFF

YOU HAVE TO RUN FAST TO KEEP UP WITH THE OLD!

Thank you."

Christopher Chataway
The Rt Hon Christopher Chataway

THE COLLAPSE OF

The Welsh Socialist Republican movement was made up from a loose network of people from Plaid Cymru who believed that the party should be shifted to the left, a few disenfranchised socialists, and other previously non-aligned people

The 'urge' for this movement apparently, 'developed out of the growing realisation that genuine national freedom is impossible without socialism'

One of the main problems with in the movement was that, there was never any real work done as to an analysis of Wales, politically and economically, on which to base the movement's own political direction. It seemed to be sufficient to call for the setting up of a 'Welsh Socialist Republic' without analysing why this would be beneficial to the working class in Wales and why they should demand it

The two major failings of the movement were:

1. A general lack of unity in the movement about political direction.
2. A lack of seriousness in the enormity of the task in hand.

To look at the first of these points:

strategy

At the WSRM strategy conference in September 1981 a paper was put forward, entitled, "Towards the Welsh Socialist Republic" by the National Secretary.

One of the suggestions within this paper was that the WSRM should become a party and drop the label of Republican. This suggestion has to be looked at more closely, because the intention might not be immediately clear.

Because the movement was made up of a 'broad front' of people, the necessary unity was not always there. Because of this, rifts began to form and excuses had to be made as to the reasons why. The main one being, was that, there were too many Plaid Cymru members within the movement and that their loyalties were split. The opposition to the leadership of the movement was growing and not only among Plaid Cymru members, The opposition had to be eliminated and this is what the leadership was trying to do through the introduction of a Welsh Socialist Party. The idea of this WSP was that it wouldn't be nationalist, but, Socialist in basis and would put pressure on Nationalists to leave. Plaid Cymru would oppose anyone belonging to another party and therefore loyalties would be tested and in the they would remain in the Nationalist party Plaid Cymru. The main opposition would have been successfully dealt with and in a way (as can be seen in the following quote) that wouldn't be seen as expelling members or a witchhunt against Plaid Cymru members.

There would be other various support groups around the party that could be joined although they would still be firmly in the control of the party. Also note the inclusion of 'Labour supporters'. This was to show it wouldn't just be affecting Plaid Cymru members. The only catch is the WSRM had very few Labour party members in its ranks. The quote is as follows:

"Election candidates would stand under the Welsh Socialist party label. Thus Labour and Plaid supporters of a Welsh Socialist Republic, who would risk expulsion by joining the WSP could still contribute to our struggle, by joining/supporting the Prisoners' Defence Committee, the fife and drum band or the Welsh Martyrs Commemoration committee."

This scenario was never acted out because the movement collapsed (WSRM) before it could be, but the intention was there.

A recent observation by somebody who has been looking in to Welsh politics is as follows:

"I was watching the Plaid Cymru conference on television the other night and thought there doesn't seem to be much difference between Plaid Cymru and the WSRM. They both seem to be talking about the same things in the same way".

Perhaps this was the WSRM's failure. It never really lived up to its intention of a 'Radical Alternative to Plaid Cymru' and when this was realised, together with the arrests of some members of the movement the reason for its' existence had become redundant.

The WSRM is dead, the Cardiff club has wound up, and the National Committee no longer convenes. A couple of clubs still seem to exist, but I do not think they meet or organise any political activity.

leadership

The leadership has had to account for this demise in a way that doesn't reflect on their own inadequacies. So they blame the failure and collapse of the movement on anarchist infiltration. This excuse has enabled certain people to withdraw their support from those people currently in Cardiff prison.

To sum up this section, the leadership had different ideas about how the movement should move forward and be organised from a large proportion of the membership.

They wanted it to become a 'Marxist-Leninist' style party. They realised that there would be a lot of opposition to this, because a lot of the

members were of Nationalist origin and would remain loyal to the idea of Welsh Nationalism. The time of the arrests appeared to be a good opportunity to wind up the WSRM. A lot of members became scared of being arrested themselves. They seemed to go in to hiding, not to be seen in the WSRM again. Five of the arrested were members of the Cardiff Club and it suffered accordingly. Energy was channelled into the Welsh Political Prisoners Defence Committee rather than into the WSRM. Energy that would have been vital to its survival. Logically you would have thought that because the WSRM was under such heavy attack it would have put all its energy into defending itself and its arrested members. I think this was an intentional tactic by the leadership, to let the WSRM collapse. This would enable them now to set up the WSP without official opposition in terms of defeated motions etc. (Retreat from the PDC followed.)

party

In fact, not long after the arrests, certain people were visited by the leadership to see if they were interested in joining such a party. Party membership by invitation only! I have no idea how this scheme is progressing but I have the feeling not very far

defence

In terms of personal manoeuvring by the leadership for its own ends, the lack of action in defence of its own members is explained by the above.

I shall now go on to explain in political terms why even if the WSRM wanted to defend its' members and attack the state it would have been unable to. This is in fact the second point stated as one of WSRM's failings at the beginning of this article.

If you set yourself up as a revolutionary organisation with aims of a Welsh Socialist Republic, you have to be aware of what this means in political terms. You are setting yourself up in opposition to the British state which means you are declaring war on that state. There is no way the British state is going to allow you to propagate those views without opposition, because, if you are serious, you are talking about shaking the very foundations on which the British state is built. It is not going to let a piece of its' remaining empire go cheaply. Whether you try to achieve the required objective by so-called 'legal and legitimate' means or by planting bombs, burning holiday

cottages - it amounts to the same thing in the eyes of the British state - subversive activity. Firstly it can allow (or contain) a certain amount of subversion such as demonstrations, meetings, propaganda, but when this escalates into the planting of bombs etc which brings publicity to, not

only the bombs themselves but the politics behind them and the people expounding them. The state has to act because you are beginning to have some sort of effect. This it cannot afford as the 'subversion' is becoming harder to contain (although in this case I believe the state overestimated the threat of the WSRM). Instead of finding the 'perpetrators of these evil deeds' which is a far more difficult task the state (whose agents in this case are the police) arrest well known political activists who hold views similar to those indulging in these military acts. This is precisely what has happened in Wales, and the WSRM took the brunt of these arrests. Because this question was never taken seriously, that people would be eventually locked up for their political beliefs. The movement did not know how to handle this situation when it came. The support for those politics behind the military attacks is therefore disappated and the activities have momentarily stopped. I have no doubt that at some stage in Wales' future these activities will resume, but the state has been given a breathing space.

It is of no interest to the state whether the people they lock up have done anything or not. They are propagating the same views but in a different way. A conspiracy charge deals with the question of evidence very neatly as it enables the state (the prosecution in this case) to bring up the defendants' political beliefs. The whole question of innocence + guilt becomes irrelevant because as far as the state is concerned these people are subversives and should be treated accordingly.

direct action

This was not even realised in the most fundamental of ways. This can be seen by the persistent attempts of the leadership to distance itself from these acts of 'violence'. This was thought to be sufficient to divert the attention of the state from the WSRM.

This attempt is clear in the following statement entitled "The WSRM and Direct Action,"

"It is not the policy of our movement at any level to advocate or participate in military acts such as arson or the planting of fire bombs. Instead we urge people to join

THE W.S.R.M.

or support our Movement in order to further legitimate and legal political activities (my underlinings)

The statement goes on to describe the harassment suffered by the movement in spite of this "clearly stated position" and says that "our crime, in the eyes of the authorities, is to have stated our Socialist and Republican view on political matters - views which have never urged the use of violence or military methods."

There seems to be a complete lack of understanding of what constitutes 'legitimate and legal' political activities + surprise that the campaigning for a Welsh Socialist Republic is a crime. So the intention to avert police attention by disassociation from 'military acts' becomes meaningless. This becomes hypocritical when seen in the light of other remarks made by the WSRM in its publications. For instance, in the last issue of Welsh Republic, May 1982, an article about Norman Tebbit's new Employment Bill, says,

"The WSRM has pledged its active support to any union which is threatened by the new laws, and this stance will not be restricted by respect for the law and order of the British State."

This seems even more hypoc-

ritical when the afore mentioned statement on direct action is printed on the very next page! Also it seems highly unlikely that the WSRM would have been able to support any union which was threatened by the new laws, considering it has been unable to support its' own members, currently in Cardiff Prison.

warning

So in conclusion, I would like to warn all political activists, the danger has not been averted. The likelihood of a re-emergence of the idea of a Welsh Socialist Party will come and probably this time it might materialise. Led of course by none other than Robert Griffiths, closely followed by Gareth Jiles and Paul Eynon all leading members of the now - defunct WSRM. This will consist of a self-styled attempt at a Marxist-Leninist party which will probably consist of the same opportunism which prevailed in the WSRM.

Anyone serious about Wales and its' future will avoid anything to do with this new party.

Don't say you haven't been warned!

"1982 is going to be a decisive year in the development of the WSRM."

National Secretary.

INDIGNANT HEART

There are very few books around written by workers about working, books that any other worker can pick up, read and say at the end "that's just how it is". The books written by sociologists are often unreadable! Watching the work is quite different from doing it. Left wing accounts of workers' struggles likewise never show what it's really like to grind away your life, because the Socialism of the left often leaves the workers working while the 'socialists' plan and organise. What's needed are books, pamphlets and papers full of what workers are doing and thinking, as well as what workers have achieved in the past.

'Indignant Heart: Testimony of a Black American Worker' provides just this. It's an account of Charles Denby's working life from discrimination in the Deep South to working in the car factories of Detroit. The first part of the book he wrote back in 1952 under an assumed name to protect himself and others from the persecution let loose by Senator McCarthy. The sec-

ond part takes the story up to 1978, during which time he became editor of a paper called 'News and Letters' while still working on the line. Among the many things he covers are the struggle to establish unions and then the endless fight against the union bureaucracy, the failings of the Communist and Trotskyist parties, the 1967 uprising in Detroit and the Civil Rights campaign. All the way through are two constant threads - what it is to be black and discriminated against, and what it is to work and be pushed ever harder by machines and management.

It is a very positive book. Denby always looks for the elements of a new society in the mess of the present one. Any British worker in a union will recognise much of what Denby says about unions from their own experience. American workers call some of the union officials "pork-choppers" which which shows a keen assessment of where the subs go. Almost every time the workers try to change conditions on the shop-

floor or resist speed-up, they have to fight the union even harder than the company. The night shift in Denby's factory goes on strike over the sacking of 25 men, but the union keeps it quiet because it knows the day-shift workers would support the strikers. The night shift decides to picket during the day to close the place down: the union then orders the day shift to cross the lines. Of course Denby and the day shift refuse to obey. A union official says the strike isn't authorised by the union. Denby says to him "That's why we're having a strike. The company knows that the union will try to whip down on anything they want to put over on us. They make us walk out...I'm sure the company knows we're not supposed to strike until we get an okay from the union...If the workers don't strike, then by the time the union gives it's okay the men will be forced to do what the company wanted." It's a common experience for workers to find themselves caught between management and the union they pay for. But, Denby continues "the workers feel they'll never be able to beat the union bureaucracy in an election." He quotes a worker saying "They'll stuff the ballot boxes and if they get beat there'd be blood around the ballot box."

leftists

Of course the thing that terrifies the union leaders more than anything is workers organising themselves and managing without them. Denby's been involved in many such attempts, and points out one frequent feature, the way in which leftists and radicals rush in to sell papers, deliver the 'correct' line and take over. Workers then drop out, usually in disgust. Denby sums up this well "And I know from my experiences that when rank and file workers come round to any radical organisations...they do so because they want to make a fundamental change in their lives. And as soon as they see that is not what is going to be done from their experiences with the group, they just leave."

productivity

One of the words used too much today is 'productivity'. We all know that increasing it means fewer jobs. It's an endless battle for car workers when the car model is changed. On Denby's part of the line, eight men were running 125 jobs an hour. The line changed, and the engineers set it up for 235 jobs. Doing it strictly the engineers' way, the men could only manage 50 an hour. By correcting all the mistakes in the set up and demanding that two more men help out, they got it up to 150 an hour, then 175. They tried to get a time study done straight away before they got used to the new set up - the company likes to leave it a month or so that it can set a higher rate. A deal is then struck: the workers will do 200

humour

There's also a fair bit of humour in the book. One militant black called Bowen climbs the union ladder to a high position (as a token black) to the extent of being called an Uncle Tom pork-chopper by the workers. At a union meeting Bowen is sitting at the front with all the white union leaders. A friend of Denby's points at them all and says "Look, all white." On the shopfloor, a new machine is introduced to cut metal that a worker feeds in. The machine works so fast that it's impossible for the worker to get his hands back before the machine starts cutting. Heavy leather straps are put on the worker's wrists, so his hands are jerked back automatically so they don't get cut off. No worker would try this out, so the firm made the foreman show how safe and easy it was. After two or three pieces he begs them to let him loose so he can go to the toilets - he was so scared he wet himself.

fight

I've only picked out a few things from the book, but there's much more. What I really like is what he's after shines through crystal clear on every page. He says he wrote it because no one had put anything similar in print, although what's in it would be familiar to a lot of workers. In reply to those who want 'an answer' he replies "This means that I am supposed to give a big program about the world revolution and freedom for this or that and so on. I have had enough of those arguments. Any reader of this book knows what I want and I will fight for it however I can and whenever I can."

Charles Denby: "Indignant Heart, Testimony of a Black American Worker" is published by Pluto Press.

LETTER FROM CARDIFF GAOL

Dear Scorchier,

Inspector Basil Griffiths of the South Wales Police force addressing a meeting of the extremist Monday Club at this year's Tory conference referred to 'people in our inner cities' who, he said, should be 'harrassed and frightened so that they are afraid to commit crimes.' 'Preventive' policing of this kind has a long and honourable history in Wales. The political role of the police has always been easy to discern in Wales. Of course the police are a line of defence against workers in any capitalist state, they have always been used offensively and openly against organised workers and union movements.

The use of the police to crush attempts by workers to halt the asset-stripping of their branch factories by multinational companies is common in Wales today. In strike actions no attempt is made to hide the fact that the police are there to protect the owner's property, not to safeguard worker's rights. However, with the increasing perception of the Labour movement leadership as part of the establishment, the most blatant political role of the police has become the harrassment of political movements and the suppression of civil rights to members of those movements.

Almost all recent attacks by the police against political rights have been toward Welsh Nationalists. The first major police operation of this kind occurred in the late sixties at the time of Prince Charles' investiture. Police activity consisted of surveillance and intimidation of prominent Nationalists on a large scale. This involved the harrassment of hundreds of Welsh people by more than 1500 Special Branch and other detectives under the control of Scotland Yard. Although a bombing campaign was going on at the time, most of the Nationalists under surveillance were leading members of Plaid Cymru whose party was then enjoying its' greatest electoral successes.

During the seventies police activity was not experienced on such a wide scale, however the increasing use of conspiracy charges was seen in the numerous prosecutions of members of the Welsh Language Society. Those Nationalists charged with conspiracy offences

tended to be the leaders of their movements rather than perpetrators of specific offences.

Since 1980 Wales has experienced a widespread campaign of attacks against holiday homes and other symbols of exploitation.

Despite large-scale police operations reminiscent of the late sixties, these attacks continue. The lack of police success in catching the arsonists is due, no doubt in part to the tacit popular support this campaign enjoys.

Police efforts, apparently aimed at identifying the arsonists and bombers, have consisted of dozens of arrests, detentions, searches and the surveillance of Nationalists. The best known police operation of this kind was a series of co-ordinated raids known as 'Operation Fire' in March 1980. Over 50 Nationalists were detained for periods of up to 3 days, held without access to lawyers and questioned principally, about their politics. Police activity at this time included the seizure of personal property which could have no connection with the arson campaign, and door to door enquiries in North Wales about political beliefs and how people cast their vote in the last general election. Almost all the people arrested in operation fire were released without being charged.

As a result of the public condemnation which followed the suspension of civil liberties during operation fire, police activities in the last two years have been relatively low key. Raids, surveillance and intelligence gathering have continued but mass detentions on the scale of 1980 have not been seen.

The aim of all this intelligence gathering about the political beliefs and associations of Nationalists is yet to be seen, however, in late spring of this year following the familiar pattern of detention without access to solicitors a number of people were charged and imprisoned. After six months in prison on these 'holding charges' eight now face a conspiracy charge to cause criminal damage over a two and a half year period from March 1980. (the date of operation fire)

Of the dozens of detentions + interviews during 1982, just two people were arrested on a specific charge. Most were released without being charged and the remainder were charged after being held for up to three days. Some of the people detained had already been arrested on previous police raids, and at least two were subjected to surveillance by the police which was so blatant that it could only be described as intimidation.

The arrests themselves were invariably accompanied by comprehensive searches of homes and workplaces. One man had his flat, his girlfriend's flat, his parent's home and his office searched, and his recently sold car traced and recovered. From the hundreds of items taken from these sources just one booklet (belonging to his mother) was retained by the police.

Articles taken included household tools, wires, clothes pegs, drawing pins, records, cassettes, newspapers (especially Nationalist and socialist literature) Hundreds of books were also taken, ranging from diaries and the 'Private Eye bumper book of boobs' through 'Who needs the drug companies?' to 'Women of Nicaragua' and anything that was in Welsh.

The items which really interested the police were the most common household articles such as pegs, cello tape, wires, batteries and letters. In at least two cases, the wrong houses were raided and searched to the confusion and distress of their occupants for, as was the case with most of those arrested, the police did not inform the occupants of the reason for the search. Once arrested, people were held for up to three days, without access to solicitors and their whereabouts were kept hidden from families and friends. To all intents and purposes they had disappeared from society, were isolated, threatened and in some cases physically assaulted by detectives.

That these arrests were wholly 'fishing expeditions' is borne out by a number of factors. Most of those arrested were freed after a time in custody. Only a very few were arrested on a particular charge; in those cases where a reason was given for detention, the usual police response was 'to help us with our enquiries' or 'we'd like to ask you a few questions.' Neither of which are currently arrestable offences, nor are they requests when made by large numbers of policemen at 6.30a.m or 11.20p.m.

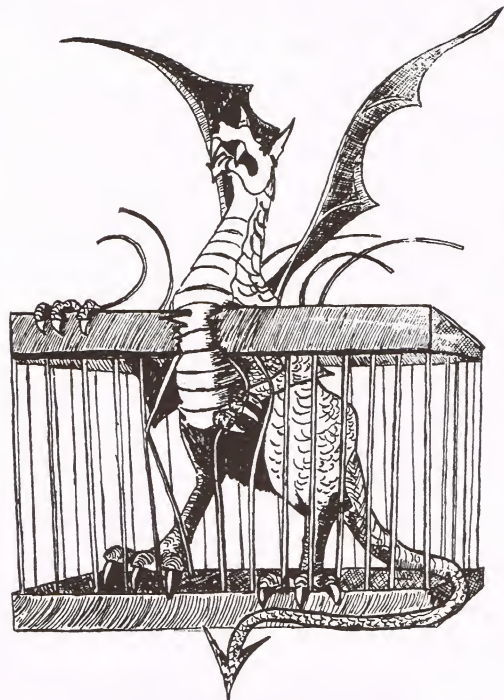
Interrogation were by teams of between 2 and 5 detectives from the Welsh police forces, Scotland Yard, City of London, Warwickshire and West Midlands constabularies and, in some cases Special Branch. These interviews went on for hours and days, they consisted of threats, blackmail, coercion and assaults by the police.

Much of the evidence against those currently charged appears to be in the form of forced confessions and verbals. Verbal

als are fictionalised, incriminating accounts of interviews between the police and a defendant and are a principal reason the police deny access to a solicitor. Verbals together with material the police have gleaned from 3 years of intelligence gathering make it inevitable that these defendants face conspiracy offences. As Dafydd Wigley M.P recently commented with conspiracy charges 'the most tenuous and circumstantial evidence can be assembled in a way that makes it appear much more ominous than may be the case.'

Welsh people are being victimised for their political beliefs and it is undeniable that those Nationalists currently held in Cardiff prison, without trial, are political prisoners. Inspector Griffiths comments to the Monday Club may have sounded like suggestions; in Wales, at least, they seem to reflect current police practice.

Brian Rees
Dafydd Ladd
David Burns
Nick Hodges
Gareth Westacott



WESTACOTT STRASSE?

Gulag Limited, a massive East European building concern, reacted angrily at the use of Welsh Political prisoners to name streets in a new workers estate in East Berlin. Names such as Westacott Strasse and Ladd Strasse, they say would be unfitting for the new suburb.

They urged that Nice, Quiet Pleasant and Lenin would be more apt.

A spokesman at the British Embassy said that this was yet another "Red slur" on human rights in the British Isles which "we all know are better than those in Russia."

Similarly in Cardiff a row has developed between the Cardiff City Council and British builders, Laings. Laings claim that the use of Nelson Mandela, Steve Biko and Lech Walesa will deter prospective buyers on their new estate. Cardiff council have

stood firm however, asserting the importance of pledging solidarity to the cause of human rights the world over, insisting on the inalienable right of every human being to a fair trial, regardless of political persuasion and the deplorable practise of detention without trial and the fabrication of evidence.

Commenting on the strange coincidence of the street name disputes in Cardiff and East Berlin, a councillor told The Scorchers, "the use of the names of two darkies and the Polak

show our commitment to human rights and to the struggling peoples of the world. These

buggers in Cardiff nick are just a bunch of reds and deserve everything they get. What if the charges are trumped up and they have been held for bloody ages without a trial? People like that deserve all they get. This is a free society and any git who says it isn't should be put away."

WHO NEEDS A TRIAL?

'Innocent until guilty, Guilty until innocent, which is more acceptable?' writes WCCPL. (Welsh campaign for civil + political liberties)

In an article headed 'Political Trials' in their latest issue of 'Writing on the Wall' they claim 6 of the 8 defendants (involved in the forthcoming conspiracy trial) argue that they were arrested because of their political beliefs and not for criminal activity. I'm sure all 8 defendants would argue that they were arrested for their political beliefs, not for criminal activity.

It seems WCCPL are reaching their own verdict before any trial has even taken place.

It makes you wonder which WCCPL find more acceptable?

To contact "The Scorchers" write to;
c/o 108 Bookshop, Salisbury Road, Cardiff.
or;
c/o Neges Bookshop, Alexandra Road, Swansea.

letters to Cardiff gaol..

The five prisoners in Cardiff jail would greatly appreciate cards or letters to show they are not forgotten, especially with Christmas coming up. With a bit of luck they might get bail before then, so watch out for news. The names and addresses are as follows:

Dafydd Ladd
brain Rees
Gareth Westacott
David Burns
Nick Hodges

c/o H.M.Prison Cardiff
1 Knox Road,
Cardiff.

For more information about the prisoners and the forthcoming trial contact:

Welsh Political Prisoners'
Defence committee
c/o The Secretary,
V.P. Mature Students,
Students Union,
Park Place, CARDIFF.

The Basil Griffiths Column



Evening all,

Inspector Basil Griffiths here. I believe in calling a spade a spade. It sounds much nicer than darkie or coon. But let me get straight to the point, OPERATION WOGSMASHER. The code name for my plan to clean out the thieving scum who inhabit our dockside area in Cardiff. But it has been held up by a few bleedin' liberal hearts in the South Wales police force. Community policing - don't it make you sick. What a laugh - Viv Brooks has been planting evidence and putting the kneecap in with the best of us for years. Now he's pissing about down the docks putting old ladies lightbulbs in for them and unblocking drains. Just because a few darkie layabouts get up in arms if we nick any of them, they're scared to do any proper policing. And look where it gets them. 200 people looting the MWJ warehouse on West Canal Wharf and not a copper in sight - too busy doing washing-up for some old darkie tart no doubt. We're going to have another Brixton here if we are not careful. Over my dead body. As I said to the Monday Club, Many people living in our inner city areas 'are not fit for salvage' and the Brixton riots were just a gang of layabouts going on the rampage. We didn't need that old Dodderer Scarman spending months in order for us to hear how to stop it happening again. I know how to stop it.

Which brings me back to OPERATION WOGSMASHER. Now where was I.....

NEVER FORGET YOUR WELSH

Whoopie...It's what we've been waiting for - yes, it's here, it's really here, S4C...at last. First to be received via transmitter and then shoved at us through cable, but who wants it? Who's going to watch it?

In a poll before it began nine out of ten people said they would prefer to watch the English Channel 4. Not a big surprise when you consider the majority of them don't speak or understand Welsh. But they've only got themselves to blame for not opposing Gwynfor Evans

and his 'successful hunger strike.' A victory for Plaid Cymru, yes but not for the Welsh language.

Rubbish

The fact is Welsh speakers are not going to watch the new channel either. Why? Because it's just more of the same old rubbish that's been dished out on BBC Wales and HTV Cymru. It's poorly presented, badly written and continues the insulting

picture of Welsh people as a load of dumb mystics and half baked rustics. So we get boring irrelevant insights into C19 copper mining in the Amman valley and in depth probes into the poverty and misery of weavers and farmers in Cardigan during the Crimean War. Can you stand the excitement? We get anything that doesn't face what's really going on raised to the importance of a religious experience and anything that has something to do with what is really happening presented as an unfortunate interruption.

Bland

On the light entertainment side (give me strength) it's popular music, rock and roll performed by podgy love-sick youths with seeming spinal complaints who balance their embarrassing incompetence with their bland sincerity, and of course we mustn't forget the dubbed films that we are promised, where you can't cry with

pain because you are dying of laughter (remember Shane speaking like a castrated Baptist minister and Dracula bellowing threats like a drink crazed prop forward on a bad night) But the kids programmes have always been the worst and S4C have spent a fortune on their mascot Superted to cover up the consistent twaddle that goes on the rest of the time. The escapades of a cuddly toy just are not enough.

twaddle

All the above is about the dunderheads that control the channel, but the most worry feature for a channel that says it will save the language is that Welsh speakers oppose it because it isn't the Welsh they speak and hear. Gwynfor Evans says that with the new Welsh channel the language may survive, but without it the language will die for certain. Cymdeithas Yr Iaith say the channel should be all Welsh, as if British invest-

ors want to give up the rest of their chances of making a profit. They both miss the point made by the people who matter, the Welsh speaking viewers. The channel will do more harm than good. The educated Welsh presenter, like the standard English that dominated the BBC for 40 years, a dead language of authority, not a living language of dialects and slang spoken by the people.

The trendy middle-class sympathisers to the language have managed to keep up their consistent record of killing off what they take to be dear. Their cause is served by S4C but the language isn't. Besides for the most part TV is about the passive viewer watching silently in his lonely quiet world, tranquillised - quite the opposite of nurturing the language in the communities. The cause of the Welsh language is not served by S4C, but the cause of the trendies and dogooders is, they will have a good time on the sinking ship.

NEVER MIND THE BOLLOCKS

Most people living in Wales seem to be fairly ignorant of the Welsh Language rock scene. Although wimpy wishy-washy articles have appeared in magazines such as Arcade, the scene is still poorly understood by those who do not speak Welsh. For that matter the scene is still poorly understood by a lot of Welsh speakers.

So rather than write a wishy-washy article on Welsh language rock stars, I'm going to outline some of the main reasons why the Welsh scene remains unseen, unheard, underdeveloped and largely irrelevant. This is not going to be the usual 'Welsh rock is a waste of time' type argument used so often to totally dismiss the Welsh scene. It's far too easy to compare Welsh rock to English rock and call it rubbish. We're dealing with two different cultures. I don't think that Welsh rock should be 'held accountable' to English rock values because English values aren't worth a lot. The roots of Welsh rock lie in protest songs directed at English oppression and exploitation of Wales. Welsh rock must be seen within its Welsh social and economic context, but that's not to say it can't or shouldn't be enjoyed by non-Welsh speaking people from Cwmbran to Tokyo.

The present situation is that the scene is dominated by about a dozen 'big' bands whose music is directed at middle class twits, students and school children. A large percentage of the smaller bands hope one day to be one of the 'big bands'. One of the main problems with Welsh rock at the moment is that it is almost exclusively directed at middle-class 'chil-



RHIANNON TOMOS.

dren' rather than working-class 'kids'. In other words it's as elitist as Margaret Thatcher's economic policy. The kids on the streets, in the ruined mining valleys, on the dole, sniffing glue and generally pissed off with Thatcher's treatment of Wales, cannot and do not relate to middle-class twits singing about 'how awful it would be if the bomb went off.'

Until Welsh language rock reaches these kids it will remain pathetically irrelevant. Sure, there is the problem that these kids are often denied the chance to speak Welsh by the Education system, but by playing to them and by informing them, they could be reminded of their Welsh identity. They could see the pointlessness of voting Labour (most have) and they could see some hope for

an independent Welsh Wales. 'Surprisingly' many members of the 'big bands' work for the Welsh media. This means that they also control Welsh language rock as well as playing it. They tell us that their own bands are the best bands. Yes that's it they hype their own shows. (Who said incest?) Let's start with the BBC who very generously provide us with radio programmes, but don't get too excited it's guaranteed safe for the grannies to 'bop along' to. No John Peel show in Welsh that's for sure. The main programme is the Saturday morning request show 'Sosban' It's Sosban which sets the scene' so to speak, so you guessed, it's pathetic! Sosban is run by ageing hippy Geraint Davies well known for his interest in 'up and coming bands' who feature ex-members of bands Geraint used to play with in the sixties! Geraint Davies is truly representative of the boring old fart syndrome as is his counterpart at HTV. HTV provides the pop programme SER now shown on S4C. Again (even more surprises) this is a pathetically middle of the road programme. Ser is run by another ageing hippy Eurof Williams again well known for his interest in 'up and coming'



bands' from the sixties. Ser is another closed shop run by the media for the media bands. They don't give a damn about developing the scene. Why should they? They get big fat cheques for sitting in offices doing nothing all day.

media bands

Amongst the media bands are - Ceraint Jarmen, Rhiannon Tomos, Bando, Omega, Derek Brown and Eliffant. None of these have members younger than 25! (Disruption, picketing and boycotting of gigs could be one way of telling them to pack in and give way to relevant bands. So the media-band relationship stinks and they know it, it's incestuous and follows a well known principle that the less bands they show on the TV, radio etc the more gigs their own bands will get. The point is "we couldn't have nasty skins actually getting up on TV and talking about real life could we?" The Welsh life is portrayed as being safe, while the majority of people in Wales are suffering. The media doesn't give a fuck if it doesn't relate to the bulk of the population. Why should they? they've got loads of money for doing very little. Why do more work for the same pay?

newspapers

The newspaper coverage of Welsh rock is restricted to the weekly National newspaper of Wales Y Cymro and the independent pop magazine SGRÛCH. The Cymro operates by printing articles that are sent in, there is no one in touch with the rock scene, so although there are occasionally good features, it remains out of touch 90% of the time.

y cymro

Y Cymro is probably the most important outlet after Sosban and Ser because it comes out every week. Y Cymro could really develop things but it's the same old story, middle aged, middle class journalists who don't care about what they're doing. Sgrech on the other hand ever-critical of the 'ang-

licised' Cardiff and South Wales scene has set up it's own 'scene' based on Y Fro Gymraeg. Sgrech apparently has a readership of 2000 per issue and it comes out every couple of months, but instead of covering new bands it features bands from Y Fro and hypes them up

by slugging the 'big' Cardiff bands. I agree with Sgrech at times but it's like a bloody revolution! they fight an authority only to set up their own authority, which although less powerful is just as bad.

Sgrech

Sgrech is critical of Welsh bands who play at non-exclusive Welsh bands' gigs. It is pathetically out of touch with the scene in East and South Wales where bands are trying to recapture Welsh audiences, not trying to alienate them. Sgrech is basically a local

magazine for Y Fro used to further the cause of ADFZR subversively by hiding behind pop banners and aiming at school children, innocent and easily influenced. Sgrech could be a great 'National-fanzine' but it's gone up it's own arsehole.

Stink

At present, all major outlets for Welsh rock really stink,

and until they can be brought back down to earth, to the grass-roots of Welsh rock, they will continue to stink. It's a well known fact that the working-class don't follow the Welsh media because it doesn't relate or represent them. There are of course real alternatives trying to reach these people by small gigs, indie tapes and records etc, but there's a hell of a way to go. We have to bring down the whole Welsh rock system and let it develop naturally.

I don't suppose this article will make me very popular with the 'media' - well my answer to that is that I hate your guts and don't give a fuck.

You're parasites and you know it. If you were honest you'd give way to people who really care about Welsh rock but "Oh, my God, we'd have bloody punks gobbing at gigs then, wouldn't we?

RHYS MWYN

LLAFUR DAY SCHOOL

(SOCIETY FOR WELSH LABOUR HISTORY)

WELSH COMMUNIST PARTY.

WALES T.U.C.

PLAID CYMRU.

NICLAS SOCIETY.

ANNOUNCE A DAY SCHOOL AT THE POLYTECHNIC OF WALES, TREFOREST.

THE JULY RIOTS IN WALES 1981

Morning Session: Setting the scene

"THE ROLE OF SKINHEADS IN THE CAMBRIAN COMBINE DISPUTE 1911,"
PROFESSOR GWYN WILLIAMS.

"HIDDEN FROM HISTORY: RASTAFARIANISM AND THE 1926 GENERAL STRIKE IN THE VALLEYS."
PROFESSOR BRIAN DAVIES.

Afternoon Session: Analysis

"ABSCENCE OF TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP AMONGST THE JULY 1981 RIOTERS."
GEORGE WRIGHT.

"ABSCENCE OF CORRECT ANALYSIS AMONGST THE RIOTERS."
BERT PEARCE.

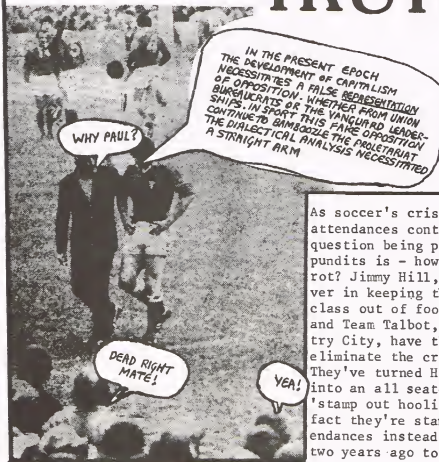
"ABSCENCE OF REFORMIST DEMANDS FROM THE RIOTERS."
NEIL KINNOCK M.P.

"THE PACIFIST TRADITION AMONGST THE RIOTERS."
GWYNFOR EVANS.

JAN. 15
1983

SCORCHLINE

RINGER THE TRUTH



IN THE PRESENT EPOCH
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPITALISM
NECESSITATES A FALSE REPRESENTATION
OF OPPOSITION. WHENEVER SUCH A
BUREAUCRACY OF THE VANGUARD LEADER
CONTINUES TO UNIMAGINE THE PROLETARIAT
THE DIALECTICAL ANALYSIS NECESSITATES
A STRAIGHT ARM

As soccer's crisis of falling attendances continues, the question being posed by media pundits is - how to stop the rot? Jimmy Hill, long a believer in keeping the working class out of football grounds, and Team Talbot, sorry, Coventry City, have the answer - eliminate the crowd altogether. They've turned Highfield Road into an all seater ground to 'stamp out hooliganism' in fact they're stamping out attendances instead. From 16,000 two years ago to 13,000 last

YEA!

season to 8,000 this one, the trend is clear: in two seasons there'll be no one watching. The savings on printing programmes and tickets, paying for turnstile minders and catering, hiring suitable community constables with colour pictures of the 'lads' etc mean that the club will soon be on a firm financial footing. Loads of clubs have gone in for glass boxes so that local businessmen can chat up customers, with waitress bar service and television (in case the on-field entertainment isn't up to scratch): get the money in, and stuff the real fans. Of course, if they were really determined to turn soccer into "the man's game for all the middle class", they would take a leaf out of the Welsh R.U. book - charge £750 for the right to buy a ticket for 4 or 5 matches a year for the next 15 years in the new South stand.

Is it any wonder no one turns up to see Wales anymore? Just over 2000 at the racecourse last May, under 5000 for the Norway game at the Vetch. At least Wales (undeservedly) won - have they now been cured of that arrogant attitude towards Scandinavian teams? When Iceland drew 2-2 at the Vetch -

SWEET FA.

the result that effectively kept Wales out of the World Cup - the Iceland manager rightly accused Wales of racism: Iceland weren't eskimos, they knew how to play football and they weren't going to roll over and die for Wales' greater glory. There must be some like me who will never again willingly put money in the Welsh FA's coffers after the Wales-Scotland World Cup game at Anfield in 1977. For a few quid Trevor Morris and co threw away home advantage. For a few quid more, when Welsh fans couldn't fill the Kop, the rest of the tickets were sent to Glasgow, with predictable results in terms of intimidation, violence, being out-shouted, and turning the whole thing into an away game for Wales. Thank God Toshack hit the bar and Jordan cheated - we'd have been murdered otherwise.

P.S. Good to see Kenton Utilities pushing for promotion - what are Newport County and Swansea City's real names?

BREAD AND CIRCUSES

In our spectacular society, where everyone has to have an opinion for or against everything, sport now rules the world. Our T.V sets pour out endless calendars of events - The world cup, the test matches, the open golf, Wimbledon, The Olympics, The Embassy Darts, The Benson and Hedges show jumping and the snooker. Our hearts really do beat faster and our palms sweat, as victory is grasped or eludes us.

It is not just teams we support but individuals. Who's your favourite? Overt or Coe? Steve Davis or Terry Griffiths? Jimmy Connors or Bjorn Borg? Eric Bristow or Jocky Wilson? We've all got favourites and reasons why. A whole series of fake choices is paraded before us so that we can exercise our free will, show our strength of judgement. Thus each sport has its' identikit rebel who we all love or hate. Alex Higgins in snooker, Alan Evans in darts, John McEnroe in tennis. The commercial potential of the rebel Harvey Smith who gives a V sign to royalty and advertises vodka is no less than the clean-cut Kevin Keegan who wants to be Prime Minister and advertises Brut.

These superstars are endlessly extolled by the media not just for their sporting prowess but as an example of how we can all get on if we are prudent and sensible. We are told about any young footballer that "He has invested wisely", "Started his own business", "is thinking of the future".

This is the modern way - not like poor Tommy Lawton 'reduced' to fiddling the social security

The Daily Mirror runs a centre page spread on darts player Bobby George. He's pictured with his nice family, outside his mock Georgian house, on the bonnet of one of his Rolls. "Only four years ago he was an electrician".

Welsh rugby players are fine examples to us all - Tommy David and Steve Fenwick have a thriving oil-lubricant business at Bridgend", while the rest are marketing consultants or Gareth Edwards media types. We, the unemployed are supposed to greet all this as if it was somehow good news for us. The alternative is just as appealing. The - rebel Higgins McEnroe, Smith - who drinks, gambles, goes nightclubbing, has a different model girl on

his arm every night. Either way they're an example of everything we aspire to. Partisanship in sport can be meaningful. It is exciting to support your local team, made up of local players and people you know. Today our 'local' football teams are dependant on the chairman of the Boards bank balance and the strength of his investments which is directly related to his ability to rip off local people. Every time our centre forward scores the winning goal, he opens a new wine bar. The opposition in sport is entirely fake, based only on a desire to maximise your advertising potential while we wildly cheer our team, with which we have nothing in



common, from the sidelines. Just occasionally however the contest does take on a real meaning as in the Czechoslovakia v Russia ice hockey match after the 1968 invasion. More unexpectedly Joe Bugners comeback fight against "our own" Winston Allen became a real contest. Whether he was annoyed at being the fall guy for Bugners much ballyhooed return, or more generally resented everything Bugner stands for. Winston brought some real anger and hatred to the ring. Winston himself knows the rougher side of life - being on the dole, being prosecuted by the DHSS for not declaring his earnings, and it was easy to identify with him against the superhero Bugner. Even the passionless Bugner was shouting "animal" and "bastard" at Winston after the fight was over as Winston's seconds held him back from having another go. You half expected Winston to lie in wait outside Bugner's dressing-room and brick him as he came out. The press was so shocked because they are so used to fake opposition, that they found real hatred and aggression in the ring impossible to understand. Didn't Winston know it was only sport?? Apity Winston didn't win or at least knee Bugner in the balls before he was knocked down.

"A working class hero is something to be." Winston Allen joins QPR centre half Bob Hazell (arrested for siphoning petrol from a car during the riots in Birmingham) and snooker player Jimmy White (arrested for looting during

the riots in Balham) on my bedroom wall.